

CORA GAGE SAYRE: MEMORIES OF SMITH VALLEY

Interviewee: Cora Gage Sayre

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Description

Cora Gage Sayre, a Smith Valley native, was born in 1897. She received her education in the West: in the one-room Smith Valley School; Hamilton School on Geary Street in San Francisco; Carson City; and at Berkeley High School. On Nevada deserts and in the mountains, Mrs. Sayre acquired tremendous knowledge of mineralogy.

Mrs. Sayre's account of Smith Valley history—and her collection of early day photographs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia—is a boon to any Nevada history buff. Through Mrs. Sayre's mother, Kate Sweetman Smith Gage, who married Cyrus Smith, there is an inside track to pioneer Smith Valley days. Cyrus Smith, one of the first settlers on the West Walker River, had been in California mines before he returned to the East and encouraged his brother, Timothy B. Smith, to come out West.

Cora Gage married Andrew C. Sayre, Sr., and together they saw the original "Smith's Valley"—crisscrossed with roads to former booming mines in Virginia City, Aurora, Bodie, Pine Grove, and Ludwig—transformed into a verdant valley. The likelihood of a short water supply lessened when Lake Topaz was completed on the West Walker River. Large irrigation wells in the late 1950s afforded more protection for the rancher. In Smith Valley, the wheel-roll irrigation sprinklers preceded the automatic circle sprinklers in the rich, green alfalfa fields.

The Sayres reared their four children in Smith Valley. They attended community functions and gave unstintingly of themselves for their children and the improvement of the valley.

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MARY ANN SHI MILLER, A SMITH VALLEY TEACHER FOR 20 YEARS, PRODUCED THIS ORAL HISTORY AS A STUDENT IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO, 1977 SUMMER SESSION COURSE, "ORAL HISTORY: METHOD AND TECHNIQUE." MRS. MILLER, AN OKLAHOMA-TRANSPLANT, IS MARRIED TO ED MILLER, THE DUTCHMAN WELL DRILLER IN SMITH VALLEY, AND THEY HAVE THREE CHILDREN, MITCHELL, MICHAEL AND DAUGHTER EDDIE ANN.

An Oral History Conducted by Mary Ann Miller

University of Nevada Oral History Program

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PREFACE TO THE DIGITAL EDITION

Established in 1964, the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) explores the remembered past through rigorous oral history interviewing, creating a record for present and future researchers. The program's collection of primary source oral histories is an important body of information about significant events, people, places, and activities in twentieth and twenty-first century Nevada and the West.

The UNOHP wishes to make the information in its oral histories accessible to a broad range of patrons. To achieve this goal, its transcripts must speak with an intelligible voice. However, no type font contains symbols for physical gestures and vocal modulations which are integral parts of verbal communication. When human speech is represented in print, stripped of these signals, the result can be a morass of seemingly tangled syntax and incomplete sentences—totally verbatim transcripts sometimes verge on incoherence. Therefore, this transcript has been lightly edited.

While taking great pains not to alter meaning in any way, the editor may have removed false starts, redundancies, and the “uhs,” “ahs,” and other noises with which speech is often liberally sprinkled; compressed some passages which, in unaltered form, misrepresent the chronicler’s meaning; and relocated some material to place information in its intended context. Laughter is represented with [laughter] at the end of a sentence in which it occurs, and ellipses are used to indicate that a statement has been interrupted or is incomplete...or that there is a pause for dramatic effect.

As with all of our oral histories, while we can vouch for the authenticity of the interviews in the UNOHP collection, we advise readers to keep in mind that these are remembered pasts, and we do not claim that the recollections are entirely free of error. We can state, however, that the transcripts accurately reflect the oral history recordings on which they were based. Accordingly, each transcript should be approached with the

same prudence that the intelligent reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information. All statements made here constitute the remembrance or opinions of the individuals who were interviewed, and not the opinions of the UNOHP.

In order to standardize the design of all UNOHP transcripts for the online database, most have been reformatted, a process that was completed in 2012. This document may therefore differ in appearance and pagination from earlier printed versions. Rather than compile entirely new indexes for each volume, the UNOHP has made each transcript fully searchable electronically. If a previous version of this volume existed, its original index has been appended to this document for reference only. A link to the entire catalog can be found online at <http://oralhistory.unr.edu/>.

For more information on the UNOHP or any of its publications, please contact the University of Nevada Oral History Program at Mail Stop 0324, University of Nevada, Reno, NV, 89557-0324 or by calling 775/784-6932.

Alicia Barber
Director, UNOHP
July 2012

INTRODUCTION

Cora Gage Sayre is a Smith Valley native who received her education in the West: in a one-room Smith School; Hamilton School on Geary Street in San Francisco; Carson City; and Berkeley High School. On Nevada deserts and in Nevada mountains Mrs. Sayre acquired tremendous knowledge in mineralogy.

With other people, Mrs. Sayre generously shares her accounts of Smith Valley history. Her collection of early day photographs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia are a boon to any Nevada history buff. Through Mrs. Sayre's mother, Kate Sweetman Smith Gage, who married Cyrus Smith, there is an inside track to pioneer Smith Valley days. Cyrus Smith, one of the first settlers on the West Walker River, had been in California mines before he returned to the East and encouraged his brother, Timothy B. Smith, to encounter the West.

Cora Gage married Andrew C. Sayre, Sr. and together they saw the original "Smith's Valley," crisscrossed with the roads to former booming mines in Virginia City, Aurora, Bodie, Pine Grove, Ludwig, transformed

into a verdant valley. The well-known figure of a farmer with a shovel on his shoulder, irrigating from ditches, is still a common sight. The likelihood of a short water supply lessened when Lake Topaz was completed on the West Walker River. Large irrigation wells in the late 1950's afforded more protection for the rancher. In Smith Valley, the wheel-roll irrigation sprinklers preceded the automatic circle sprinklers in the rich, green alfalfa fields.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew C. Sayre, Sr., reared their four children in Smith Valley. The couple, for the sake of their children and for the continual improvement of the valley, attended community functions and gave unstintingly of themselves.

When Mrs. Sayre was invited to participate in the Oral History Project, she graciously accepted my invitation. There were six taping sessions, each yielding an hour of cassette tape. All taping was done in Mrs. Sayre's Smith Valley home in June and July, 1977. One taping occurred on the Fourth of July and she shared with me rich accounts of past Fourth

of July celebrations. There were no fewer than a dozen informal visits.

Most of her transcribed tapes are edited; the facts are well researched through newspapers in Yerington, Gardnerville and Reno, documents in both the Nevada State Library and the Nevada Historical Society. Deeds were read in the Lyon County Courthouse; some information came from relocated Nevada Archives and the National Archives, Washington, D.C. This book is not necessarily an oral history, as such, but it is an interesting history of Smith Valley.

The Oral History Project of the University of Nevada, Reno, preserves the past and the present for future research by tape recording recollections, such as Mrs. Sayre's actual accounts in Smith Valley. To her, we are exceedingly grateful for the maps in this book. Resulting transcripts are deposited in the Special Collections departments of the University Libraries at Reno and Las Vegas. Mrs. Cora Gage Sayre has generously donated the literary rights in her oral history to the University of Nevada.

Mary Ann Miller
Interviewer
August 15, 1977

MEMORIES OF SMITH VALLEY

I was born on the Gage Ranch in Smith Valley, Nevada, December 20, 1897. I really never knew any grandparents. My father's (Harrington Gage) folks were from Ontario, New York, and Mother's (Kate Sweetman Smith Gage) folks were from England, and, of course, none of them came here.

My uncle, Mother's brother, Sydney Sweetman, lived in Virginia City from 1873-1879. Then he came to Smith Valley and Yerington. His wife Sara died at the Hinds' Hot Springs, the health cure for things at that time: and left a three-year old child, Jean Sweetman. Uncle Sydney wanted my mother Kate to come from England to take Jean back to England to raise her like a lady, not out here in this wild West. And so, Mother, in August, 1880, came to get Jean. Somehow, Mother got sick. It was called "ague" at that time but it was sort of Plains fever that so many of the immigrants had. Mother was quite ill for awhile but she improved after an Indian woman brought her some wild Indian tea to make and drink.

It took Mother six weeks to come from Bournemouth, England, by sailing vessel to New York. But she came with some people who looked after her when she got to New York. They rested there for a week; then they put Mother on a train for the long ride west to Reno.

From Reno, Mother boarded the Virginia and Truckee and went to Virginia City to get Jean and came back to Carson. Then she got on the stage from Carson and came out through Carson and to Gardnerville and to Wellington. But there was no one there to meet her. It was odd hours, so she stayed at the Wellington Station all night. Wellingtons owned the station. That was in 1880.

At that time, Sydney Sweetman was in Smith Valley working for Cyrus Smith but he did other work, too: brick and rock work. He built a little red brick house in Wellington, before 1887. His brother, Benjamin Sweetman, went back to England after a year in Colorado. Sydney also built the jailhouse at Bridgeport and many cellar houses, for Wedertz and many Mason Valley farmers.

Mother's uncle, Elisha Sweetman, received a medal for fighting under the Duke of Wellington in Belgium against Napoleon in 1812. Me brought home the medal, inscribed in all Latin, except for "Waterloo." His niece Sarah wore it most of her life. I have the medal. Aunt Sarah Tuttiett came from England in 1923. She is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery, Smith Valley.

My mother, Mrs. Kate Sweetman Smith Gage, lived in Smith Valley for more than 60 years on the same ranch. She was born in Somersetshire, England, January 17, 1856. In 1880 she came to the United States. Two years later she married Cyrus Smith and four children were born to them: Jessie, Kate, George and Ella. Jessie and George died in their early childhood years. Cyrus "Doby" Smith died August 31, 1891.

In 1895 Mother married Harrington Gage. Three children were born to them: Walter F. Gage, Mrs. Andrew C. Sayre, Sr. (Cora Sayre) and Ralph B. Gage.

Funeral services for Mrs. Kate Sweetman Smith Gage were held Sunday afternoon February 21, 1943, at the Coventry Cross Chapel in Smith Valley. Reverend James Brockman of Hawthorne officiated. Interment was in the Hillcrest Cemetery.

My father came from Michigan to live in Nevada around 1890. He followed mining and farming. He died here at the Andrew C. Sayre, Sr. ranch, July 20, 1944, and he is buried at Hillcrest Cemetery.

My brothers, Walter and Ralph, called "Pete," stayed on the ranch in Smith Valley. Walter married Mary Radley from Antelope Valley and was on the ranch for a few years. Ralph was on the ranch, too. But during World War II, Walter went to Hawthorne to work. Then Ralph went to Topaz, California, on a ranch. He married Ruth Schgru. Walter lives in Grass Valley, California, now and Ralph is in Bend, Oregon.

Our early, close neighbors were the Petersens about a half-mile down the road and the George Fulstone family was up the road in Wellington. The John O'Banion family with children, Shirley and Curtis, were about all the neighbors around us.

Special friends: the Carter girls, Ruth, Blanche and Dorothy; and Margaret Palmtag, an orphaned girl reared by Mrs. H.M. Schooley.

Grandma Simpson was Mother's best friend and she delivered me when I was born. And there was Mrs. C.C. Tidd, Mrs. Laureston R. "Bob" Ames, whose husband was the first Smith postmaster when I was small. The post office was established June 4, 1892. It was west of the old Smith grammar school on the south side of the road where Linscotts are.

Teamsters really did not come by our place but they hauled freight through Wellington from Bodie to Carson. Washington "Wash" Brandon, Patty Conway in Sweetwater and then Ed Leveille, but I never really knew Ed when he was young, teaming. They hauled gold ore out and then hauled supplies to the stores and people in Bodie and Aurora with the big teams: and there were many, too, because Patty Conway owned several different teams but other people drove them for Patty. And the horses had the ringing bells on the collar hames. And at one time, Mother and I were going to Wellington in the buggy, and Conway's big team was coming down near Readings (pronounced Reedings) store, the bells were ringing. Mama stopped the horse and said, "I must listen to those bells!"

Ten horses would be in a team. Sometimes, there would be 14 horses or more. There seemed to be a tremendous amount of them. All depended on the heavy load they had to pull. The teamsters stopped at Readings to feed and water the horses and put them up for the night. There was a barn there a tong

time ago across the road from the old W.E. Reading Company store.

Toys came from a catalog—Sears, Roebuck in Chicago and there was a Weinstock-Lubin in Sacramento that we ordered so many things from. My little brother Ralph had an iron train that he just pushed. There was no winding to it. It is a real antique cow. I do not remember any special toy that Walter had. But we always played and made our own toys, mostly, and our own entertainment. We played ball, too. I had dolls with china heads but no favorite doll. I had so many and I made dresses for them all.

We had chores to do. I, as a child, always had to fasten the chickens at night and fasten the geese and take care of special ranch chores children could do. I helped Mother with the cooking and ran errands because they had cellars that were quite a distance from the kitchen. I had to go down into the butter cellar to get things because it was a cool storage place; and then to the meat cellar. We had a separate potato cellar, and we had to do the running to get things for Mother's cooking.

We had to clean the lamps and fill them and do the dusting. The old wood stove, a Home Comfort, had a copper boiler on the side. This copper boiler had to be polished every Saturday. It was my job to clean and then fill the hot water boiler two or three times daily.

For entertainment, there was a Christmas play and little recitations in the school classrooms. Christmas, when we were small and until we were good-sized, was always a special occasion because there was a big Christmas tree and decorations in the church. The tree was decorated with little popcorn balls and sometimes cranberries. The Ladies Aide did this. There was always a bag of popcorn, a bag of candy and one orange for each child. Santa Claus was there, too.

They did not have wrapped Christmas gifts or personal gifts on the church tree. You could not take your gifts for your family and put them on the tree. Christmas songs were sung, the old fashioned ones, such as "Little Town of Bethlehem." Today they have so many songs, a new one every Christmas.

I do not recall any special horse races in Smith Valley. Of course, four or five boys could have raced.

In the summertime, when I was even very small, there was the Fourth of July picnic at Granny Fulstone's orchard. It is still the Fulstone place in Wellington. Men pitched horseshoes and had ball games, no special teams. The girls and boys of different ages ran races and the winner got two-bits. Of course, everybody visited: that was the main object of the whole thing.

Everybody brought his own food, a great supply of it, and had long tables to put the food on. Everyone sat down to the tables. There was always a large crowd.

And then there was a time they had a few gatherings at the Readings. At one time, a Fourth of July celebration.

The George Fulstone family had a building built about 1914 near the orchard. It was a two-story frame about 30 feet by 60 feet. The lower part was for storage and the boys slept there, too, but the upstairs was quite a large floor. There was no place in the valley large enough for a dance at that time. The Fulstones had ten children, the older boys and Marguerite and Juanita; and Clara and Frank who were younger.

Every Friday night they had a dance. Johnny Dixon played the violin and Leland Day's wife, Alice Rickey Day, played the piano. The dance was on Friday night because it could not be on Saturday because they would have to dance over into Sunday and that was not proper. They danced waltzes, two-steps

and the schottische, but mostly waltzes and two-steps. Elisha Dickinson and sometimes Jay Mann called the square dancing.

The band did not charge to play. The dance did not last much later than two o'clock. They had cakes, coffee and sometimes salads for midnight supper.

When I was small, there were no Fourth of July fireworks. After the Odd Fellows established a Wellington lodge, they bought the fireworks and displayed them at Readings.

As we grew older, there were more parties and dancing. Just about all the young folks went to the dances at Readings new hall. At the dance were young, single folks and the young married people.

The singing was for the older ones that were just a little bit older than It was. But they did gather at the church and I think the Manns and McVicars gathered together, too. This was when I was small. They were 20 or 25 years old, somewhere in there. The whole families were included. They would meet at one place one time and then the next place. And Petersens, too, often had wonderful parties.

People did not have as much time for hobbies then as they do now. They knitted and crocheted and always sewed their own dresses. They hardly bought any. That is, our family did not and there were four women in our family to sew for.

We did not get in a group to make quilts. We worked just within the families.

If a person had a bad cold, they either had mustard plasters or drank Kamillen Tee (Camomile Tea) for aches and pains. Also some liniments were used. If they had a severe case of cramps, they could take a spoonful or two of whisky with some water.

There was a peddler, John Shehady from Yerington, who had two horses and a van, wagon-like, that opened in the back. He

sold men's shirts, overalls, shoes and some children's things, yard goods that you could buy and ribbons. He always had some ribbons for the girl's hair. He just had regular every day clothing items that you would need, especially for working men because there were large hay crews and they all required shirts and things like that.

John Shehady, the father of Don Shehady in Smith Valley, was one peddler of several. There used to be fruit peddlers coming over Sonora in spring and summer that brought fruit; dried fruit in the fall and fresh fruit, such as peaches, in the summer. But the peddlers would come usually through Antelope Valley and then down through Smith Valley. But in the fall they brought the dried fruit and we really put in a supply of dried peaches, pears, apples, and raisins. We always bought in twenty-five pound wooden boxes.

Also in the fall we butchered four or five or more pigs at the same time. Then they would hang out at night to cool and we put them in the meat cellar through the day. Then they were cut up into hams, bacon and salt pork. The hams rind bacon were salted down in barrels and after so many days, it was washed. Then it was hung in the smokehouse and smoked with apple wood. All this was done by family members.

During the haying season when we had big crews to cook for, we butchered a steer and gave some meat to neighbors. Then, when the neighbors butchered later for the haying crews, meat was swapped back to my family.

As I grew older, my chores changed. I helped with outside things, such as feeding the horses and cows in the barn. My sister milked the cows and did the separating of the milk from the cream. And then there was taking the cream to the creamery about three times a week, about where Alex and Laura Dickinson Miller live. It was the Smith Valley Creamery

Company and then John O'Banion bought it when he purchased that land around there. The creamery ran for quite awhile. Mr. Landry was one of the early operators. In 1906, the creamery burned but the parts were shipped from San Francisco just before the earthquake and Frank Mann opened the creamery.

The churned butter went by stage to Hudson and some went to San Francisco. It won the prize in the 1915 fair. The fresh creamery butter went by night train.

Petersens' milkhouse was a house that was built just a little ways from the main kitchen door. The shelves were lined around the walls and the milk was put into pans. (That was before there were milk separators here.) Tin pans held the milk. When the cream rose to the top the next day, it was skimmed off and made into butter. They had a lot of pigs to feed the skimmed milk to. The cream was churned into butter and it was sent to Virginia City and to Pine Grove. That was, of course, the early days when they had these milkhouses.

John Hoye and Zadoc Pierce had the first stores in the valley. Rene Cardinal has the last Hoye store, original building, "The Wellington Mercantile;" but Pierce's store was known as Pierce Station, built by a wagon master, Zadoc Pierce, in 1876. (Pierce was the Lather of Lottie Pierce.) The store changed hands and in 1903 W.E. Reading bought the establishment.

First, Mr. and Mrs. John Hoye lived north, past the Hinds' Hot Springs on the well-traveled road to Virginia City. Then they moved near the bridge up Hoye Canyon and they opened a store. As early as 1882 Mr. Hoye's letterhead gave this location: "Walker River, Douglas County, Nevada." Their third move in Smith Valley was to Wellington where they built the general store and a three-story house with many rooms upstairs. Some of the lumber in this house is marked "Truckee

Lumber Company, 1878," Rene Cardinal owns both the home and the store.

Mrs. Hoye took in boarders for the teamsters and people going through. The Hoyes reserved a room, finely decorated, for the Catholic priest who came from Carson to visit with the Hoyes. Later years, Mrs. Hoye did not run a restaurant. She was known, however, for the well-set table. Helping Mrs. Hoye was an Indian woman who cleaned the house.

Even though Hoyes' store was a little farther up the road from us, we patronized both stores.

In the summer, Mother was always busy cooking for the hay crews and the boys were busy, so my sisters and I would have to go to the Reading store to get supplies for the hay crew. Sickle bars or Pitman rods would break and we would get those in emergencies. But we often went to the store with the horse and buggy, at least once a week, just for a ride. There was no special day for that.

The Readings' children were grown when they moved here from Bodie. Ed, the youngest, stayed here when the family opened the W.E. Reading Company in 1903. The daughter, Mrs. Cordea, never lived here. She had already married and was living in Berkeley.

The Readings lived in quarters joined onto the store. There was a dining room in between and a kitchen back of it. They had a China man cook for the family and for the stage passengers or whoever wanted to come in for dinner.

Both stores were general stores and they had some farm machinery. There was a blacksmith shop in a separate building to repair machinery. The building was out from the barn near the Reading store.

Across the road from the Reading store was the saloon building, Readings' Saloon,

under a big tree. Bill Reading was the barkeeper quite a bit. They had helpers because Bill worked in the store later. That building was moved down the road about five miles; that is the Central Bar where Harold Elder started a little store and his cousin, Bill Elder, started the garage.

Hoyes' store had a different arrangement and it was very interesting to young people. There were summer straw hats to wear outside instead of wearing a sunbonnet, candies and dry goods. You could even pick out a piece of material for a dress. It was always quite a nice store.

Mrs. John Hoye (Mary) was from Ireland and Mr. John Hoye was from England, originally. They had no children but Mrs. Hoye had two nephews. Tom Kingsley and Frank Kingsley, and a niece, Mary Kingsley, who lived with Hoyes. Frank went to Reno but Tom stayed there all the time with Mrs. Hoye, even after Mr. Hoye died.

Mr. Hoye died in 1890 but he had wanted to be buried in Carson with Catholic services but it was in the severe wintertime. A storm prevented the stage and teams from getting through the Hoye Canyon route. So the men put Mr. Hoye's body on a sleigh and horses pulled the sleigh over Hudson Pass and down to Yerington to make connections with a train at Wabuska and then to Carson.

The Methodist Church was the only church for a long time. It is still standing on Rivers Road. It was built after the schoolhouse that stood there was moved to Smith. There was a public subscription taken to build the new church.

In about 1940 there was an Episcopal Church built and the minister drove from Carson or Gardnerville on Sunday to the Coventry Cross Episcopal Church. The inside cross was from the Coventry, England, Episcopal Church saved during World War II

when that church was bombed. The church was north of the present grammar school, very close on the same side of the road. Families belonging to the church included Dr. Mary Fulstone, Mrs. S.V. Sedden, Mother (Mrs. Kate Sweetman Smith Gage). There were others also because then the valley had begun to fill up and there were different people that wanted to come in.

Of course, I remember when the Catholic Church was built in 1948. I thought, it is a beautiful, small church.

Courting? The men would come and spend an evening and play cards or something like that. We played Casino and the simple ones, not bridge. We played pinochle. Sunday afternoon was always a time to take the girls for a ride in the buggy, if they had one; sometimes it was a car.

I went to the Hinds' Hot Springs to visit the Hindses but I never did go there even for a dance. They used to have dances there, too. The first owners were Sneider and John Fairchild who sold to J. C. Hinds. He sold later to O'Banion and Snell. Hinds had it for a great number of years. They had a swimming pool and rooming place where one could get rooms. People came there to bathe in the hot springs for curing rheumatism. They had a house with rooms in it but then over the swimming pool was quite a large house. It burned July 4 when the Hinds family owned it. The O'Banions rebuilt it, quite a large place, but then it burned, too. Now there is nothing there, except the unused pool, included in the Three Two Bar Ranch.

In the early days people came from Wellington down the Colony Road to the Hot Springs. Across from Smith there was a crossroad, too, that came in at the Colony Road. People came in their own transportation. If you were going to the Hot Springs, you would need to make connections

with someone to meet you and take you there. At one time Readings had the livery stables where you could rent a horse and buggy. The families here always had their own.

It was only the men who voted and were on the election board. And it was held in the schoolhouse and the women would take down cooked things for the Elections Board's lunch. Then, when women could vote, it was done the same way, until they held the elections in the hail at Smith. Women were on the election board after they were allowed to vote. The first time I voted, it was for Woodrow Wilson.

Fried chicken and sandwiches of bread were taken to the Election Board. Mother always took a big casserole of cooked corn. She used to raise corn and dry it to be used through the winter. It was delicious. It is like cooking dried beans but you do not have to soak it so long. It would moisten up quite quickly and then cook it in the same water that it was soaked in and add a little salt. When it was done, she would put butter in it and almost always, thick cream. But it would swell up and be just like cut off the cob.

There was always the San Francisco Chronicle, even when I was a small child. We would go down to the post office at Mr. L.R. Ames' place to get the mail. It was west of Smith, half a mile, on the Tim Linscott place, east of the cemetery, once a day. In the evenings, Dad (Harrington Gage) would sit in the rocking chair under a lamp by the window and read us all the news and we youngsters had to listen. There was the Youth's Companion, a "must" all the time and then there was the Delineator which had girls' dress patterns.

The mail came from Carson to Gardnerville and to Wellington. The very first post office was in a small building at the old Wellington's station, near the river. Ben

Harrison now has this white building on the Frank Mann ranch.

The mail was sorted at the Wellington Post Office that was later in the Reading store. There were four different locations for the post offices named "Wellington." The first three were in Esmeralda County, established March 17, 1865, (Old Wellington Station) and discontinued January 21, 1869; August 13, 1869 and discontinued September 20, 1872; July 23, 1873 and discontinued August 29, 1876; and the same Wellington Post Office in Lyon County was established February 8, 1878, and it continues to serve.

The mail came to Smith every day. But after Hudson began flourishing from the train coming from Wabuska, the mail would come from Hudson. There would be a stage leave Wellington and go to Hudson to pick up and bring back the mail to the Smith Post Office and then to the Wellington Post Office. We would get our mail before Wellington. It was sorted at Hudson, then Smith and then Wellington.

In the early days mail came from Genoa and it was always addressed to Walker Station which was Wellington. Daniel Wellington built the first home on the West Walker River at Wellington, A man would just leave the envelope, generally, at the old Wellington Station. It was a large, white building close to the river with a porch around it. When Mrs. Benjamin Dickinson lived there, I visited there with Mama. Mrs. Dickinson would come out the side door and go down some steps to the river to dip up water from those steps and back into the kitchen door. Across the road from the house was the stage stop at the barn.

There was supposed to be antelope here and in Antelope Valley. That is why Antelope Valley was so named, because of the large herds there. I saw, in later years,

antelope here on the ranch and hundreds of deer. There were coyotes and badgers and bobcats. Bobcats used to get in the chicken house whenever they could. But there were mountain lions, too. We have heard mountain lions scream from up on the mountains.

There were no doctors who lived here permanently until Dr. Mary Hill Fulstone came. Dr. Ernest Leavitt used to come from Yerington when there was an urgent call, emergency, childbirth or something like that. The doctor was telephoned because among the first to receive telephone service in Lyon County were citizens of Wellington, who financed a private line that extended from Carson City in 1896 and was called the Walker River Telephone Company and eventually extended to Smith Valley. Readings put the phones all through the valley about 1915. Everyone had a phone but they rang so many long, short rings for the numbers and they were all on the same line. We had a phone, Tidds, McVicars and all the others. The telephone line went up Jack Wright grade along the road to Gardnerville.

John O'Banion had the first car I recall. He sported a 1906 twenty-horse power, black Ramble auto from Carson that had been shipped from San Francisco by rail to Reno. There may have been others from Sweetwater or Bridgeport or Carson Valley. I know the Raycrafts came out quite often from Genoa to Mother's.

Readings would have gasoline brought in on the trucks because there were trucks running at that time, too, especially after Hudson started. George Reading had a truck line from Hudson to Aurora, hauling supplies and things that the people needed. Gasoline could have been an item.

The gasoline station was across from the Readings and they had a tall, red cylinder

gasoline pump and the gasoline was pumped up by hand.

Frank Mann was the first auto mechanic because he was really a mechanic on anything in his backyard shop where Mr. and Mrs. N.E. Vick now live. But when Bill Elder started the garage at Smith about 1914, Frank used to go there and work.

People would break down and get stuck in the sand and have to walk in to get help. The sandy places were the worst. You dug with a shovel and then put brush or rocks under the tires. If that was impossible, they would get a farmers s horse and pull the car out.

The last car race was at Wellington July 4, 1919. Readings and Manns had cars and there were quite a few at that time. The cars would start, turn around the circle of the road in front of Reading's store, to Smith, from Smith on the Sweetwater road to the junction back to Wellington. At this Fourth of' July celebration, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Gonder's son was killed. He dashed out to see if the cars were coming. People were standing along each side of the road and he did not get back quickly enough. This tragedy ended the Fourth of July car races.

Andy Sayre had a big, gray car. He came to take rue for a Sunday afternoon ride. He had his brother Herman and we picked up Emma Wilkerson. We broke down just a little way up the road from Frank Mann's and Andy pushed the car to Frank's yard and worked on it most of the afternoon while we girls visited with Mrs. Mann. But I was home by suppertime and, of course, our parents were worried. They thought maybe we had gone to get married. Anyway, we explained the situation and everything was all right.

There was a wooden bridge that crossed the West Walker River at Jim Compston's. It was replaced with an iron bridge. There was an iron bridge below Jerome Mann's place,

going to the fish pond. It was replaced in the late 1950's with the concrete bridge. The Highway Bridge at Wellington parallels Jim Compston's iron bridge across the river.

In about 1919-1920, the county surveyor, E.W. King, surveyed and marked the S.V. on the mountain in Wellington. (He made maps and surveyed different things that the county required.) Smith Valley students put the rocks on the S.V. and whitewashed the rocks in about 1924. There was a time that a burro packed the water up the mountains. "Painting the S.V." is usually an annual event by some students.

A private school in Wellington was begun in 1870 with subscription monies from people who had children attending school. Miss Ella Crozier was the teacher during the short-lived school. The school was in a building one-half mile south of the Wellington bridge.

The next step in education was employing private teachers on ranches. The teachers lived on the ranch and received a small salary, room and board on the Daniel Simpson, Hank Mather, J.C. Hinds and Timothy B. Smith ranches. This happened while the Daniel Simpson family lived at Desert Creek in the 1870's.

Mrs. John Hoye in Wellington had a private brick schoolhouse for her niece and two nephews. Mrs. Hoye rented the building from Uncle Sydney Sweetman. Miss White taught in this school. Later, it was a butcher shop and it is still beside the C-G Bar.

By 1880 an official school district was formed when the ranchers donated labor to build the schoolhouse on Rivers Road where the present Methodist Church was built in 1895. Miss Lottie Pierce was the first teacher and she later married John O'Banion. Nine years later the school was moved to the site on Smith-Gage Road. Classes were held while

the school inched down Rivers Road and Smith-Gage Road.

In 1905 I attended the one-room Smith School. I remember Miss Anna Damm was my first grade teacher. In fact, she was the teacher for all the grades, first through eighth. The school was on the south side of the road from the present Smith-Gage Road, west of the present high school. The school was a large, white frame building with a rock foundation. One room had all the grades in it and an anteroom where the children put their coats, lunch pails and winter footwear. There were about 15 students in all.

We walked or rode horses. We usually got there on time but if we did not, the bell would ring while we were down the road. The boys took turns ringing the bell. After we went out to recess, the teacher rang the bell just a couple of claps because we all played there on the school ground. We had no special equipment to play on. We played baseball, tug-of-war and hiding-go-seek. All the children played together. There were no separate bunches.

My other teachers in Smith School were Miss Anna Bonifield; and Miss Darst for one-half year. Then there was Miss Anna Elam.

Smith Valley was divided into two school districts in 1908. It was a state regulation that District 12 was the Smith School and it was another district for the Wellington School. The section line ran past our home and we were put in the Wellington District. But our parents did not want to send us all the way to Wellington to school. So, Dad decided that he would send Walter and me to San Francisco. Mother had property there, so she just reserved an apartment. She bought furniture and carpeting and we stayed there the year of 1908-1909. We attended the Hamilton Grammar School on Geary Street and I was in the last part of the fifth grades in January it was the first part of the sixth grade.

We were home for the summer. So, the next term, Walter and I went to school in Carson. I boarded with Mrs. Fannie Blackie and Walter boarded with Mrs. Steinmetz, Charlie Carter's mother. But the next year we attended the Smith School.

Quite a number of times Mother would have to go to San Francisco to look after the property and see how things were going and I went with her most of the time. The two boys had gone with Mother the first time but she could not manage. But we made quite a few trips. One was a week before the 1906 fire. And after it was over and things were better settled, we went down again and saw all the rubble, the destruction and terrible cracks in the streets—it was quite a sight! Her property was not affected except for a few plaster cracks.

I skipped the seventh grade. Miss Harriett White from Reno taught me in the Smith School in the eighth grade. Ruth Carter, Blanche Carter, Margaret Palmtag and I received eighth-grade diplomas in the spring, 1912.

In the fall, 1912-spring, 1913, Miss Hazel Ohmert taught in the Smith School. Because there was no high school building, Margaret Palmtag, Ruth Carter and I sat in the back of the room, studying Latin, geometry, English and history. Miss Ohmert heard our lessons at noon hour and after the grades were dismissed.

I attended Berkeley high School in 1914-1915. High school friends included Marguerite Carver and Ruth Court whose family name is for Court Street in Reno.

The first public school in Wellington was built about 1892. It was situated across the road from the present Ernest Groso home. The next school was built on the hill

above Hoye's Store. It was still there in 1924 after Andy Sayre sold his soda fountain in Wellington and moved to the present ranch. The soda fountain later opened as a bar when Prohibition was repealed by President F.D. Roosevelt and the unused school was attached to the bar.

The third Wellington School was built in 1898; it is the one Jim Compston had Joe Acciari House Moving move in 1972. The schoolhouse was painted green and opened in June, 1976, as a museum at the Wellington Station Resort.

In the third Wellington School, Miss Clara Dietrich was the first teacher. On a list to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, her name is spelled "Dieterich." Laura Dickinson Miller was a student here and later a teacher. She has in her home the desk she stood before, reciting lessons, and later taught behind it in the same frame school.

The Wellington, Simpson-Colony and Smith Schools closed because a larger grammar school was built when the schools were consolidated. This new white, frame school was predicted about 10 years earlier in the Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 1917-1918: ". . . The most distinctive advancement in the elementary schools of the county has been the consolidation of five schools in Smith Valley—Central, Colony, Grant View, Smith and Wellington. In the near future a modern consolidated school building will be erected within easy transportation distance from the high school."

February 5, 1918, the Lyon County Commissioner proceedings included that the boundaries of the four county high school boundaries shall be named, according with Section 8, Chapter 164, Statutes 1917. Smith Valley High School District 3 includes Smith Valley School District 12, Wellington Number

14, Artesia Number 17, Hot Springs Number 10, Ludwig Number 23 and Central Number 24.

The budget of Smith Valley High School Number 3 was received and ordered published: Estimate for Maintenance of the Smith Valley High School for 1918-1919: Fuel, \$100; Janitor, \$100; Library, \$100, Repairs, \$100; Text Books and Supplies, \$100; Incidentally, \$600; Salaries, \$2000. Total, \$3100.

Stan Beaman was one who built the first high school in 1918, which stood at Wellington. Edna Beaman, Elsie Chichester and several more teachers taught there. The first class to graduate from Smith Valley High School were Beatrice Carter Hinds and Myrtle Wilkerson Bennett in 1923. The graduation was held May 23, at 8:30 p.m. in the Reading Mall, a two-story frame building with an outside stairs, across from the Readings store. The class motto was "Not evening, but dawn" and their class colors were pink and silver and the class flower was La France Rose. The principal was Valerie M. Belli.

The red brick high school had a high archway over the front door. The class of 1929 had a yearbook called the "Sapphire" because their color was blue. The bulldog was the chosen mascot.

Across from the high school was the Community Hall built in 1928 to provide for high school basketball games, other school events and community social activities.

The high school had a full basement, too, but all was a complete loss when a fire of unknown origin destroyed the building, Saturday night, between 9:30 and 10:00 o'clock, February 19, 1933. The blaze had already gained such headway that the crowd which gathered was unable to do anything toward saving the building or its contents. It had housed four high school grades and the eighth grade of the grammar school, It

was an estimated \$20,000 loss covered by insurance.

The Central Hall was soon opened to continue the school year. Temporary partitions and extra heating and lighting facilities were installed by Professor W.H. Anderson and his shop boys,

The second Smith Valley High School was built at Smith after a vote was taken March 25, 1933, at the Smith Valley Consolidated School in Smith. By a vote of 256 to 156, the issue was carried to build a new school at Smith on five acres donated by Plymouth Land and Livestock. A few weeks later, a group of men tore down the walls of the burned high school building and prepared the bricks for use in the new school at Smith.

Copies of the drawing and specifications of the proposed new high school were obtainable at the office of F.J. DeLongchamps, Architect, Gazette Building in Reno. An attractive stucco building containing an auditorium, a good-sized office, several classrooms and well-arranged hallways was constructed.

The second Smith Valley High School burned Thursday afternoon, November 10, 1938. The fire was discovered by a student who was working late on the newspaper staff. The roof of the gymnasium soon collapsed and within a short time the fire spread to the main building.

No one was injured. However, Elmer Pedroli, the school principal and a teacher, Helen Crabtree, and some students were in the building at the time the flames started.

The fire was believed to be caused by faulty wiring. The building was of frame and stucco construction. The loss was covered by insurance.

High school classes continued in Central Hall and the seventh and eighth grades were moved to the grade school building.

White & Altar of Elko were low bidders of the four who submitted estimates July, 1939, for the new Smith Valley High School building to be constructed on the same site as the one destroyed in 1938. The bid was slightly more than \$37,000 for a red brick building with a basement. It was dedicated in 1940. It stood until summer, 1972, when it was demolished and the area was black-topped for a high school parking lot. The block one-story building with gold carpeting in most teaching areas has been used four years. It is an open concept building and there are a few permanent walls to separate the classes.

Mary Trudelle Wilderson taught in the Smith Valley High School in 1933. There were about 55 students in the school for grades 8-12. The Girl's Athletic Association was organized in 1932 because the physical education program was enlarged. I attended the first Mother's Day Tea in 1932 in the first Smith Valley High School. The GAA girls made the cake and the seventh and eighth grade girls and about 30 mothers attended. Girls sang and then recited poetry. The girls borrowed the silver service from Mrs. S.V. Seddon and poured coffee, tea or punch.

Andy Sayre had a little bus that picked up the Wellington youngsters for one year. He drove them to the high school in Smith.

The long skirts after World War I were called "hobble skirts." They were long, tight around the ankles and very uncomfortable but I wore them a little bit. In the early 1920's short hair was coming in style. Everybody had their hair cut and bobbed but there were no permanents at that time, just your own curling.

There was a big improvement in agriculture. They took care of the hay differently and they stacked it with different equipment out of the wagons, which did not take as many men to get it ready on the field.

They mowed the hay and raked with an old-fashioned dump rake. It was always in long furrows cross-wise of the field. And then we hired Indian people, mostly women, who would use hayforks and put it all in bunches just big enough for a man to take the fork and pitch it up onto the hayrack of the wagon.

But after this new rake came, it replaced all the "bunchers"—people that would come and do the bunching. The little bunch rake had wooden teeth on both sides that was pulled by a horse and as they went along, it flopped the hay over. They went one length of the row and then they would make it into a bunch. The whole width of the field was done. The next invention was the side delivery rake. It took the hay after the mowing machine and turned it into a nice row. They used to call the bunch rake the "foot warmer" because a man had to walk behind it and keep flopping the hay over to make the bunches.

A fully-loaded hay wagon was driven beside the tail derrick and the haystack. There were forks or nets on the wagon. They would hook the forks or nets to the cable of the derrick and the derrick horse would pull the cable. That raised the load of hay onto the stack; and the man on the wagon who pulled the rope, dumped the nets of hay.

The stacked hay was pretty large and built up so it would pack down. There were generally two men on a stack if it was large. They used to put wires over the stack with a post on each side, hanging down for weights that would help hold the hay. But if they stacked it properly and laid it right, the hay would not blow away. And driving the derrick horse was always my job.

We used to always have one old plow that made one furrow. Then they improved that. When the man reached the end of the furrow, he could reverse the plow and go back the same way instead of going clear

around the field. The threshing crew always had a steam tractor for power to run the grain thresher. There was one in the valley that was owned by the valley people, like a company. Everyone could invest in it, a co-operative at the time, but Chester Smith almost always took care of the tractor and hired people to help.

We always pumped water by hand until we got the artesian well and that just flowed naturally through pipes into the house. George Beers from Carson Valley drilled the artesian wells in the valley about 1914. Everybody along the line had a well because pipe was not too expensive and the whole well did not cost too much.

Ludwig was quite important because, eventually, about 400 people lived there. Copper was produced at Ludwig. That is why the Nevada Copper Belt Railroad was built to Hudson and up to Ludwig. And they hauled the copper ore concentrates to Thompson Smelter at Wabuska. The copper mine was closed in the thirties. They had a mine right next to it and a processing mill and shipped the gypsum for several years. Gypsum is used to make plaster and several other items.

In a 1911-1912 report to the Superintendent of Public instruction, he was advised that Ludwig is a new school district, as well as Hot Springs.

Electricity came over the hill from Yerington to Ludwig. There were many buildings in Ludwig, also quite a store selling provisions to the miners and people. The school was down, out of town, a short distance.

There was quite a bit of activity at Ludwig because the train was coming in and out two or three times a day. At the depot at Ludwig, you could buy a ticket and ride the train to Hudson, Wabuska, Reno and San Francisco. You could leave by train in the morning and

arrive in San Francisco the next morning about ten o'clock.

There was a Main Street right below the railroad track. And two or three streets came up from the main wagon road that led into Ludwig.

The first ones in Smith Valley to die from influenza in November, 1918, were Joseph C. Fulstone, son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Fulstone; and Mrs. Harry (Cora "Cody") Fulstone. Joe died first but the two were both buried on Sunday afternoon.

Elisha Dickinson, who lived a neighbor, went to take care of them as the whole family was sick with influenza. The neighbors heard of it and they took food but they would leave it outside on the doorstep or a table. They would not go in.

But when Joe and Cody died, Andy went there and other people went to be pall bearers but there was no regular gathering at the church. They were taken to the cemetery on Fulstone property southwest of the Methodist Church.

Joe Fulstone was in his mid-twenties when he died. Mrs. Harry Fulstone left two little children, Glenn, three years old and Stanley, ten months old.

Elisha Dickinson, 34 years old, died of influenza two days after the Fulstones were buried. Then Edna Mann, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mann, died of influenza December 1, 1918. She was 16 years old. The family had influenza very hard; her only immediate family members able to attend her funeral were her father and a brother.

I read every book I could get. There was no library here so we used to send to Weinstock-Leuben in Sacramento to get the books. They were not expensive at all and the postage was not high. So we would get more than half a dozen books in one order; Harold Bell Wright's books, the Alger books,

many more good stories, of course. We read the Bible, too.

In fact, when I went to Berkeley High School, we had an English teacher who liked to ask Bible questions pertaining to the English literature that we were studying. And it kept us busy keeping up with our Bible reading. Of course, I went to Sunday school regularly, too,

The school always had their music. There were revival meetings, occasionally; meetings where there was music. Almost every home had an organ. Mrs. Olds that lived across the river from us taught music lessons. When Mrs. Art Nesmith came, she taught music lessons for many children.

Mrs. Guy Montague was an author who lived here. She wrote a book about Hawaii because they had lived there a year or two.

Nellie Albright came here from Bishop when all the farms in Bishop were sold. She was very gifted in writing poetry and songs. Some of her songs were published. At every party or shower for the girls who were going to be married, she would write each one a poem. The young girls were always given a bridal shower. And certain friends would be the hostess and almost everybody in the valley was invited and it was quite nice. Then Mrs. Albright would read her poem to them and Mrs. Nesmith would sing for the entertainment. Sometimes games were played, no prizes were given, but most of the entertainment was given by Mrs. Albright and Mrs. Nesmith. The refreshments were certain salads and cakes.

How did I meet Andrew C. Sayre? His uncles moved from Bridgeport. Andy came with them to help. That is how we got acquainted. Neighbors almost.

Andy and I married May 20, 1920, in the First Presbyterian Church in Reno. Reverend W.K. Howe was the minister and just two people, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, friends of

Andy's from the Silverado Mine, were with us. It was a beautiful May day. I wore a blue taffeta with a long waist and the skirt was a little full and attached to the long waist. It was embroidered with braid that could be sewed on to make a design. But it was not too elaborate.

The Silverado Mine is in the Sweetwater Mountains west of the Sweetwater Valley. Andy's father, Andrew P. Sayre, was the original locator of it about 1890. He worked the mine until he died in 1910. It was very rich in silver.

My mother-in-law, Mrs. Sophia Schreck Sayre, was born in Aurora in 1873 and married Mr. Sayre when she was about 17 years old. Mr. Sayre was from West Virginia and 18 years older than his wife. They moved to Clinton, California, four miles west of Sweetwater because there was quite a mine going there in the Sweetwater Mountains east of the Sweetwater Valley. But the Silverado that he discovered was more to the north and higher up on the same range of mountains.

Andy was born at Clinton and his Grandmother Schreck's family lived at Clinton, too. That was the time of the typhoid epidemic and one of the little Schreck boys died and was buried at Clinton.

Andy's rather would work at Silverado in the summer and they had a cabin to live in and quite a mill was erected there so they could take out the ore and sort it and ship it down the hill. Eight-or ten-horse teams would haul it to have it milled.

In the fall when the snow became too deep, the Sayre family moved back to Bridgeport and then Andy and Herman went to school there. In 1904 Henrietta Sayre (Bunkowski) was born and the family continued many years to move back and forth between Silverado and Bridgeport.

Andy was about 18 when his father died. Three Schreck brothers—Henry, Frank and

Joe—bought property in Smith Valley, later called the Settemeyer place. Andy and Herman had jobs before Mrs. Sayre and the two children arrived. She had a house built in the field west of the Schreck place, toward the Art Nesmiths. The Sayres lived there until 1920. The house was moved with tractors to Wellington and put on a foundation and a sturdy front porch and a back porch were built onto the house. She ran a restaurant and served wonderful meals. There was quite a bit of travel going between Bridgeport and California points to somewhere in Nevada. Joe Cabral, owner of Walker River Precast, owns the house, occupied by the young Joe Cabrals.

Grandma Fulstone, Grandma Sayre and Grandma Gage were with me, waiting for Dr. Ernest Leavitt from Yerington, when Geraldine was born.

Andrew was born in the new house we had built next to Grandma Sayre. We had been in our new house about six months. Dr. Mary Fulstone was the doctor then; and there was a lady who came from Yerington to be a nurse. Andrew was one of Doctor Mary's first babies. The Harold Elders were right across in the Hoye house. When the babies were born, Dr. Mary would come to see me and then she would go over to the Elders and then down to Mrs. Frank Compston's. Dr. Mary just walked because Fred would let her off at our house and she would walk on down to Granny Fulstone's, checking patients along the way.

Dr. Mary Fulstone was Mary Hill when she visited her sister, Mrs. Art Nesmith, in the summers in Smith Valley. It was before she graduated from the University of California Medical School. went to see Mrs. Nesmith and Dr. Mary was there. That was the first time I had seen her. She asked if I thought a doctor could get enough business in Smith Valley and I told her that I did not see why

not because Yerington doctors were so far away for emergencies and the valley was growing because more people were moving in. She married Fred M. Fulstone and moved permanently into Smith Valley.

Melvin was born in 1923 in the new house we had built in Wellington. He was just a year old when we moved here to this ranch, the former Mary Martin place.

January 1, 1926, Eloise was born on this ranch in a little house then: but we did add to it in later years.

Andy operated the ranch, beginning in 1924 and did other jobs in slack seasons. He would work on the county road. He hauled out wood. But he was always interested in mining because of the Silverado. He sold that to the mining company Mr. Dawson was superintendent of. Andy was interested in a mine in the eastern part of Smith Valley. There, he located lead and zinc in the Jackpot Mine.

I cannot recall any strikes at the mines. The "Red Scare" did not affect this community. But they were always suspicious of some strangers.

In 1876 Major Gardner and John McTarnahan took out their ditch, heading above Spring Gulch and leading down the side of the canyon. McTarnahan sold to Wymore and the original farm had an apple orchard. Wymore in turn was attempting to sell some 5,000 acres for \$14,000 on terms to Jewish people organized as the Occidental Colony Company, represented by T.R. Hofer and Morris Cohn.

While 25 families arranged to go to the Wymore Ranch, only 13 families arrived. I do not think they brought any livestock with them. They were brought over in wagons.

According to the newspaper clipping, the industrious Hebrews would raise grain of all kinds, alfalfa, hay, dairy and beef cattle and hogs and poultry. But in less than a year's time,

the Jews were exiting the misrepresented land because they could not make a living. The Jewish people did not have money to contact relatives. The Issac Cohns remained on the Wymore Ranch. The Issac Cohn family lived there about 10 years because Becky, the older girl, eventually taught a year in the Wellington school and married Daniel C. Simpson. Jr., known as "Cap" Simpson. Her high school-aged sister, Dora, went away to school while her brother Percy stayed on the place.

The Cohns sold apples to the people in the valley. Not everybody had apple trees. But Issac Cohn continued to irrigate the well-established McTarnahan apple orchard. Later, the Cohn family moved to San Francisco.

When they were here, Cohns bought eggs from my father who always had a lot of chickens and eggs. They would buy a couple of oases at a time to use. That would be quite a few eggs, thirty dozen. Of course, they had a cool place to keep them.

Waterglass is a silica. You buy it in a glass bottle and put so many parts of water to the waterglass and then it gets like milk, almost. You cannot see through it and it is not as white as milk is. You put the eggs in it and they keep all winter in crocks in the cellar. The eggs should be completely covered with the liquid.

The Simpson Colony Ditch is a consolidated ditch or a company that all the farmers use out of along the Colony District and there were generally five on the board of directors. Mr. William Blackwell was secretary almost from the time it began. And then Andy was secretary after Mr. Blackwell. Andy held that position for about 15 years or more. They held meetings of the stockholders, settled business and decided on their improvements.

The Gardner-McTarnahan irrigation ditch in 1876 was eight miles long and it cost \$20,000. The ditch and these places sold to Wymore; Wymore sold to the Smith Valley

Land Company. Because this ditch served many acres of lands owned by Louis Saroni, the ditch was eventually called the Saroni Canal serving the Saroni District.

Ranchers ordered irrigation water through the district. The river rider would turn the water into the main headgates. Then each ditch had a man going down the ditch to open the headgates into the different ranches.

Prohibition came between 1920 and 1933. Before 1920, there was a WCTU organized in Smith Valley. A meeting was held in the Methodist Church. Many church ladies joined and were active for several years.

When Prohibition was enforced, there were stills put up in canyons and places people did not frequent very often, except people who wanted to get liquor. The connections were made away from the still so that the Prohibition officers would not catch them. Plain-clothed officers did make their rounds quite often. But there were stills, especially down Red Canyon and at Hudson. After Prohibition was repealed in April, 1933, a Smith Valley still was put in a Nevada museum for display.

About 1930 we got a battery-set radio and had it for years, until we got electricity, but it worked just wonderfully well. We could get programs from different stations: Denver, Salt Lake City but mostly from San Francisco.

Air mail did improve the mail service across the country.

New theater buildings were built. There was Harrah's and the Wagon Wheel at Lake Tahoe. They had good, outstanding entertainers. Lake Tahoe in the early days, like when we went to Fallen Leaf in 1920, was not like it is now, by far. There were about two places where you could really eat or stay overnight around the lake: South Lake Tahoe and Fallen Leaf.

As for movies, no special movie was shown at the Wellington Hall. We went to

Gardnerville a couple of times to see different pictures. One was "Gone With the Wind;" one with pictures through Alaska. There were several times we went to Yerington.

The first paved road through the valley was where it is now, came down Jack Wright Road after it had been graded, crossing the new bridge, went through Wellington to Smith and through Wilson Canyon to the town of Yerington. But it was several years later when a paved highway was made to Sweetwater.

The road that passes in front of the high school now, and past the Nevada Fish and Game Rearing Pond, was paved later.

Andy was raised to collect ore samples, being his father was a miner. Andy became interested in mineralogy, cutting and polishing stones through the years. My mother, too, was really a rockhound. She used to like to get out in the hills.

We had friends who were rockhounds and, of course, we would all go together on camping trips and enjoy a good time in Death Valley. 4-H members came here and we gave them samples and told them names of the rocks.

The Unknown Soldier was selected from unknown ones in France in the cemetery and brought to Washington, D.C. and a monument was erected. The Armistice created many celebrations, a parade in Yerington and there was a speaker at a Wellington meeting. Mothers were very happy and joyous to think it—World War I—was over.

Boys who went to World War I were George Beers, Bruce Mc Vicar, Herman Sayre, Dick Fulstone, Hollis Osborne, Bill Carter, Herbert Carter, several Indian boys and others.

During World War I, there was a demand for potatoes and onions in Mason Valley. Smith Valley grew many acres of potatoes but after the war, there was no demand for potatoes and hay.

And it was a depression era through 1924. That was when the homesteaders relied on just their hay and grain to sell. But there was no market for it. The taxes came due, just the same, and taxes went delinquent on many. The people who had dairies had a steady income and they were about the only ones that really could survive.

The weighing scales were built by the Smith Valley farmers who put in money. They charged for weighing; and they had an organization that took care of the expenses and paid their bills. Profits bought the house for the weighmaster to live in. Chester Smith was the first weighmaster.

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, there were always several Red Cross and Salvation Army people who came from Reno to Smith Valley. The Salvation Army people came around to take things to Reno to be passed out, such as vegetables. We often gave them sacks of potatoes, squash and clothes. The useful clothes were outgrown by our family.

When the bank closed in Yerington, 1933, we had \$80 in our checking account. We had a notice that the bank was closed. We had no money, not even short change in the house. But we had our cream check coming. They paid twice a month. We shipped the cream to a Reno creamery. We went two weeks without any money at all, hardly. It was the dairy that saved us. I would buy the cheapest foods that would produce the most vitamins for the kids. There were four then. We could always use our own cream and butter and sell what was left. And there was always some left because we were milking about 22 cows then. So, we got along pretty good. But, of course, paying taxes was a "hard deal."

May and produce was very low. Four to six dollars a ton for hay, four dollars-and-a-hair, sometimes, but you could not sell it. Some people lost their farms because they just could

not pay taxes. They had to move to town or wherever they could get a job.

There were some people who were so "hard up" that they sold their milk and cream and the children did without. They had to have the money to get other things. The merchants gave credit and they had difficulty to get the bills paid; but most people paid after they secured jobs. But I do not know who was not bothered by the Depression.

Gambling never affected us because we never were interested in anything like that. Of course, there were people who did indulge in it and that was too bad for them. Slot machines and the gambling games that went on at the casinos drew a lot of California people who could not gamble in California.

Easy divorces in Nevada in 1931 were too bad but it drew in people to Nevada that came from the East to get a divorce. And that helped the economy. People would come and go. Mary Pickford received her divorce in Minden, Nevada.

The Wellington Ranger Station site was comprised of 3.1 acres in Wellington. The building construction started in late 1939 and an office ranger's residence and combination garage, woodshed and pump house were constructed. All buildings were built of wood, rustic siding painted white and all the roofs were green shingles.

The CCC (Three C Camp) boys lived at Topaz, California, but they met in Wellington and did either government work: planting trees, building trails, other jobs or they could work for the local farmers and earn additional money.

George Linscott had a barber shop for several years at Central, next to the Central Store. Then, as late as 1962-1963, Joan Barton Soderstrom worked there. Olive Larimore Alpers established a beauty salon in her Grant View home in 1962 and she continues

working. Carmen Grosso Farias barbered for friends in her Wellington home.

Here are the minutes from the Valley Grove Cemetery Board meeting formed April 19, 1898, by the Valley Grove Cemetery Associations: "Charles Carter was elected chairman; H.B. Gage, Secretary; N.M. Schooley, trustee, one year; John Mc Vicar, trustee, three years; D.D. Elder, trustee, three years; H.B. Gage, trustee, two years. The annual meeting for the election of Board of Trustees would be held in the Smith School, District Number 12, the first Saturday in April of each year, following. The trustees met and elected the following named officers: H.M. Schooley, President; H.B. Gage, Secretary; John McVicar, Treasury" until the first Saturday, April, 1899.

The S.E. Burbank family donated that ground to the people of Smith Valley. The five acres were for burying purposes and the deed for this piece of ground is recorded in the courthouse.

Almost all the old pioneers were buried there. Cyrus Smith, his two children, Jessie and George (sister and brother of Ella and Kate) and Johnny Rogers who came in with the first settlers; W.R. "Doc" Hutson who was later called "Hudson."

No one has been buried in the Valley Grove Cemetery of late years because the ground was too wet but since they put in the drain ditches, it has improved. The cemetery is just west of the Tim Linscott place and it can be seen from the Smith-Gage Road.

Mr. Louis Saroni and Fred M. Fulstone, Sr. donated ground to the Odd Fellows Liberty Lodge No. 45, Wellington, Nevada, to establish the new-cemetery. The Lodge charged various amounts for the plots, depending on the size and location of the plot.

But when the Odd Fellows Lodge dissolved, the valley people took it over.

Nellie Albright gave it the name "Hillcrest." They selected a board of three directors: Anna McVicar, Frank Mann, Warren Simpson. Andy Sayre replaced Anna McVicar and Norman Brown replaced Warren Simpson. All five are now deceased. The present directors of the Cemetery Number Two are Ernest Alpers, Ben Harrison and Robert Compston.

The Hillcrest Cemetery was surveyed and laid out in plots by Frank Mann. The Board had to get the title of the ground corrected, which took quite a bit of courthouse work. They hired a caretaker and had a nice well drilled. They planted beautiful trees and evergreens for which we must give credit to Anna and Andy, the former directors. The caretakers were Roy McVicar, Bill Carter, Howard Wilkerson and, now, Martin Glock.

In 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Spearman came from North Hollywood and bought 160 acres and owned the ghost town of Hudson on the West Walker. Lonnie had been employed at various motion picture studios, arranging sets and lights. Helé had a good pottery business in Southern California.

Most of the buildings of Hudson had been torn down or moved away after the train was discontinued. There was one remaining building and the Spearmans remodeled it. The huge bell from the Copper Belt train engine, which used to pass their house, was on a high wall and it was used as a dinner bell.

The Spearmans had old cabins towed near their home. And in different cabins Helé had a pottery studio, an oil painting studio, a shop to sell miniature dishes, dolls, Indian basketry. Some of the structures were converted for guest houses.

Lonnie used ties from the Copper Belt Railroad to divide a half-acre into plots. A particular plot contained old medicine bottles, another had perfume bottles, another

had flasks turning amber or purple in the desert sun. A high, wire fence surrounded this "desert garden of glass."

There is a cave for a one-time Prohibition still. But the cave was a root cellar for the Spearmans.

I knew Lonnie and Helé Spearman, lovely people, very friendly and industrious. For example, Lonnie fenced the bottles to keep wild animals off the goods. In the late 1950's and early 1960's they sold different kinds of antique items. But not at first, when they were collecting.

Stanley Simmons owns the Spearman place known as "Hele's." It is a beautiful place with the river in the front yard.

Manganese was in the sand used in making glass but then they perfected a new process in 1920 that would take out the manganese before it was melted into the glass. The manganese caused the glass to turn purple when exposed to the sun; but some glass will turn yellow.

I do remember some Indians from earlier days. Lizzie in Wellington used to work for quite a few families, a fine worker, and Old Mattie and Big Mary. And they also called one Yellowjacket. I do not know why but maybe she had a peppery disposition. The Indian women, usually, handled the weekly family wash for the large families because the farm women had the children to care for, the farm chores, cooking for the hay crews.

Dr. Joe was a medicine man before Jack Wilson, who was the famous "Wovaka." Dr. Joe was killed by Potato Pat because Pat's wife was doctored by Dr. Joe before she died.

Blind Bob could wander about the valley with his cane. He sat at Readings and listened to white people talk. He was a very wise, old Indian.

Tom Mitchell proved to be a good, popular medicine man. He had herbs for remedies and

some people thought the remedies were good in the influenza epidemic. Tom Mitchell's two wives were called Little Jennie and Blind Kate.

The Indian men wore Levis just like the white men and they also wore rough work shirts. The women wore long skirts and a gingham waist, long sleeves, high neck. That ruffle at the bottom of their skirts gave them extra stepping room.

The Indian men wore their hair short and the women had hair cut straight across in the front with bangs and straight across the sides and back. A red handkerchief often covered the women's head. The men wore black hats and the top was usually flat.

There was Little Jim but he was quite an old man. He said he recalled his father saying that Smith Valley once was a lake. Little Jim was over a hundred years old. The day before he died, Little Jim walked from the Colony over to see Mama. He said that once before the Indians took him up in Hoye Canyon to die but in a day or so, he was better and got up and walked home.

I was in about the sixth grade when I saw Dat-So-La-Lee in the front window of Abe Cohen's Carson City store. She had her willows there and was weaving baskets.

The winter of 1948 was cold for many days. And there was flooding, high river waters, in the spring of 1955.

The John "Jack" Roberts place just north burned in the fall of 1957. Also there was a fire at the Three Two Bar Ranch. A man in a trailer burned to death in late 1957 near Central.

During the 1948 biennium, a state rearing pond unit (Fish and Game) was established in Smith Valley. An Army surplus shop with little offices was moved on the property by the West Walker River. John and Arlene Rife Allen (Sayre) remodeled the building in February, 1948. John and his two brothers, T.R. "Red" and George Allen, drilled the first

well for the unit. Ponds were dug and cement poured to the satisfaction of Sessions Wheeler, then Director of the Fish and Game, and Jack Dieringer, present head of the Fish and Game.

Fingerlings from Verdi were held in the tanks until they were three inches long. Some bigger fish from Hagarman, Idaho, were held until they were distributed around the local streams like Desert Creek, West Walker, East Walker, Topaz Lake.

John Allen was the first Superintendent of the Smith Valley Rearing Pond. Mahlon Hussman was next, followed by fisheries biologist, Ted Franz.

The Douglas Consolidated Copper Company was responsible for the formation of the Nevada Copper Belt Railroad Company because the Lyon County Bank subscribed to \$15,000 for the railroad bonds and individuals pledged another \$22,000 because Yerington wanted to be served by a railroad. The forty-mile track was finished in November, 1911. It began at the north point, Thompson Smelter, ran south through Wabuska, a mile west of Yerington, to Mason and Hudson. Then the track ran in a northwest direction toward the Singatse Range and Ludwig, headquarters for the Nevada-Douglas Company. During this distance, the track never crossed the West Walker Rivers

The train served Hudson until March 24, 1947. Alta McKay was the last station agent at Hudson and the depot was moved to the Hunewill Ranch where Millie Hamblet lives in it.

In May, 1946, the Smith Valley High School Principal, Robert C. Allen, went to Southern California to get a military surplus fire engine. Earlier, Norman Brown had a haystack fire and a fire engine came from Carson Valley but the stack was lost. So, the Smith Valley-Lyon County Fire Protection District was formed to supply equipment

for Smith Valley; valley people would be the volunteer firemen.

The first Board of Directors was Bert Werner, Angus Vogt, and Norman Brown. A bond was floated under the name of Smith Valley-Lyon County Fire Improvement District. The first fire chief was Leonard Wines. The fire engine was kept in a quonset where the Smith Valley Fire House meetings are now held. The quonset is on the Bob Griffin ranch in the Colony District.

The second Board of Directors consisted of Albert Zimmermann, Johnny C. Neill and Norman Brown. The Wellington Fire House, next to the Wellington Automotive owned by Martin Petersen, was built. A 1948 International was purchased from the Smith Valley Garage and sent to Concord, California, for completion.

The first ambulance was obtained through the local VFW Kermit H. Neddenriep Post, No. 8084 and their bid for the green 1948 Pontiac ambulance, with the California hospital towels, in Schurz was accepted. Instrumental in obtaining the first ambulance was Melvin Sayre. When the Smith Valley Volunteer Fire Department was finished with the ambulance, Lester Fariass's son-in-law, Fred Wedow, bought it. Then the firemen got a 1951 red Cadillac ambulance from Lake Tahoe. It was donated by Nevada Drug, Yerington, and delivered by Paul Oelsner, who was in business with a brother, Don, in the Nevada Drug. The red Cadillac ambulance was later sold to Joe Malugani who owned the Central Garage in the late 1960's-early 1970's. Mr. Malugani put the Cadillac engine in his pick up. There also was a 1966 Ford ambulance bought in California. Now we have a white ambulance. It is a 1972 Chevrolet van from C.O.D. Garage, Minden, and it is housed in Smith

The VFW Kermit H. Neddenriep Post No. 8084 was formed in Smith Valley in

1946 and named in honor of Kermit H. Neddenriep who gave his life in World War II in Anzio, Italy. Charter members: Herbert E. Carter, LeRoy Bryan, Harry E. Everett, William C. Smith, Glen Smith, Warren H. Wedertz, Robert Compston, Leonard Wines, Amos Quilici, Theodore Keeley, Charles Burke, Albert Wines, Lloyd McKay, Thomas Allen, John Giomi, George Kroth, Lawrence Allard, Earl Allum, Richard Gonder, Walter Keeley, Frank Johnson, Russel Ferguson, Thomas Federicks, Elwood Compston, Paul Arnarez, James Compston, Lee Bryan, first VFW Commander; John Giomi, first Quartermaster; and Clarence Fatten, who lived with the John Giomi family in Smith Valley.

The VFW Kermit H. Neddenriep Post No. 8084 Ladies Auxiliary was chartered April 23, 1948. The first president was Gene Neddenriep, mother of Kermit H. The current president is Geraldine Sayre Keeley and she served as president in 1955 and 1976. Charter members: Edith Giomi Golightly, Gene Neddenriep, Marian Allard, Betty Bryan, Barbara Smith, Mildred Diehl, Lola Smith, Marjorie McKay, Vera Everett, Nora Kendall, Edith Keeley, Roena Carter, Bette Werner, Cora Sayre, Vivian Fulstone, Geraldine Keeley, Norma Menesini, Martha Wedertz, Louise Neddenriep, Elsie White, Laura Miller and Helen Nuti.

Vivian Fulstone is past president of the auxiliary and Post Department President. (President of the State VFW Ladies Auxiliary)

I attended the dedication ceremonies June 7, 1953, when the historical marker was presented to Smith Valley. The dedication ceremonies were for the "Wellington Station" monument. Old time residents and distinguished visitors attended. Mrs. Barbara Wellington Lundburg, great granddaughter of Daniel Wellington, and her husband flew

from San Francisco and were accompanied to Wellington by Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Crouch of Reno. Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hines attended, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schooley and Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Rogers and Frank Rogers of Reno were present as early day residents.

Mrs. Annie "Granny" Fulstone of Wellington, Mr. H.E. Carter, Mrs. Edna Day, Mrs. Cora Gage Sayre, a descendant of pioneer Cyrus "Doby" Smith, Mrs. May Harrison, representing the Mann family, Arthur Dickinson of Steamboat, Nevada, and Neil and Roy McVicar, all descendants of early day ranchers, briefly spoke.

While Mrs. AnnaBelle McVicar Giomi presented the bronze marker procured by the Smith Valley Civic Club to the people of Smith Valley, Mrs. May Harrison accepted it. The bronze plaque marked the site of the oldest known residence established in Smith Valley. The historical data was gathered from several different sources and the belief is that the first building was built on the east bank of the West Walker River near the old steel highway bridge near Wellington. Now the property is owned by James Compston, Jr. and it is near the Fulstone orchard, a well-known picnic ground.

In Smith Valley a great number of people had potatoes. Edzio Petroni had the first row crop onions in Smith Valley. Ralph Nuti, Sr. raised the first garlic in Smith Valley, Joe Acciari was next, Roy Lerg was third and Bob Griffin and Lester Farias raised garlic about the same time. There were hundreds of acres of it.

Potatoes were shipped out. Hauled to Hudson at first; and then, in later years, the trucks would come and load up and haul the potatoes to California. There were both potato and onion inspectors.

The US. Forest Rangers aided the ranchers. It was quite an improvement for

this valley when the rangers took care of the Little Walker Cattlemen's Association and the ranges. The rangers supervised those. It gave the ranchers better service because the rangers inspected the ranges and if they were short on feed, they were moving the cattle from field to field.

The Wellington Swimming Pool ground was bought from Edgar J. Springer, a stepfather to Bob Griffin, Reverend and Mrs. George Jorgenson, a Methodist minister here who was very interested in entertainment for youth, bought the land and basement of the first Smith Valley High School. He added to the basement and created a swimming pool heated with the natural hot water that was formerly used at the high school. An open balcony was over the pool. Eventually a snack bar was added and there was a small area for dancing. When the sulfur ore trucks were running between Yerington and Double Springs, the truckers would stop at the snack bar because it was easy to parallel park in front of the pool.

The Jorgensons left Smith Valley and Mr. and Mrs. Stan Freeman operated the pool. But there were inspections and the work was too much for Mrs. Freeman. The pool closed. Mr. and Mrs. Pete Perry from Yerington bought the pool from Mrs. Thelma Jorgenson and the Perrys had the property for a good 10 years.

In November, 1971, Ferd Sturtevant, the local pump service man, pulled the pump off the hot water well. The well was drilled by August Bunkowski and his first cousin, Alex Miller. For years the W.E. Readings had hot water on their place, southeast of the swimming pool.

The Lyon County Commissioners ordered demolition of the vacant buildings and pool. One small house stood on the site and it had been Mr. and Mrs. Chester Carr's home in Silver City. The house was moved

to Wellington; inhabited; then later burned as practice for the Smith Valley Volunteer Firemen.

Former Smith Valley resident Bill Smith from Yerington filled in the pool and cleaned the area free from rubble. The new owner of the property is Dan Wright who divides his time between Smith Valley and working in Alaska.

James U. Smith, a Smith Valley native, achieved national recognition. He was an electrical engineer who designed the bright lights for the 1915 Panama Pacific Exposition. He was born in Smith Valley and he graduated from the University of California in 1894, and received his Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering there in 1894 and he worked for the General Electric Company.

In 1903 he designed the communication systems for the U.S.S. California and the U.S.S. South Dakota.

Two years later Mr. Smith Joined the Pacific Gas and Electric Company as a designer of power plants and stayed with PG&E until his retirement in 1937.

Mr. Smith was a member of many scientific and historical organizations, including the American Society of Electrical Engineers and the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Mr. Smith had lived 63 years in Berkeley. He died October 1, 1957, when he was 86 years old.

The Fulstone twins, Jeanne and Eleanor, won the Toni Twin Contest. The Reno Chamber of Commerce sponsored the girls after they graduated from Smith Valley High School. There were five other sets of twins competing. The ballots or postal cards were sent to the Toni Twin Contest in Chicago, Illinois. Their title was "All-American Toni Twins" and they won a trip to Europe. Dr. Mary and Fred Fulstone, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs.

Norman Brown accompanied them. The girls won fur coats, travel wardrobes, luggage and a modeling contract for Toni advertising.

Eleanor had the Toni home permanent and Jeanne's hair was done at the Riverside Beauty Salon in Reno.

Samuel Thaw Arentz was a Smith Valley farmer in the Colony District and later he was the manager of the Nevada-Douglas Mining Company at Ludwig. He was also an elected Republican to the U.S. House of Representatives for five terms. But Mr. Arentz did not vote strictly with the Republican party. He took issues to the people and Yerington newspapers carried large-print articles concerning Arentz' continual interest in Nevadans. He served the voters.

Chief Justice Cameron Batjer of the Supreme Court of Nevada is another Smith Valley High School graduate. He was born in Smith Valley, August 24, 1919, and he graduated from the University of Nevada in 1941. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and later he taught school in Nevada. He graduated from the University of Utah College of Law in 1950. In 1952-1953, he was legal advisor to Senator George V. "Molly" Malone. And he was the Ormsby County District Attorney from 1954-1959. Governor Paul Laxalt appointed Cameron Batjer as a Nevada Supreme Court Justice in May, 1967.

His sister, Helene Batjer, devoted 32 years to foreign service. She was a consul general of the United States and Nevada's highest ranking foreign service officer at the time of her death from cancer, May 8, 1977, in Washington, D.C. She was 55 years old.

A native of Shoshone, Idaho, Helen Batjer was reared in the Smith Valley area where her mother, Mabel McVicar Batjer (daughter of Smith Valley pioneers, Mr. and Mrs. John McVicar) taught. She graduated from Smith Valley High School. She was elected the

first woman student body president at the University of Nevada. She graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1944.

Helene Batjer taught high school the next year in Virginia City. Then, she entered into the U.S. Department of State Service and held responsible positions in Berlin, Sofia, Rome, Athens, Belgrade and Stockholm.

In 1967 Helene Batjer was officer in charge of Czechoslovakian affairs with offices in Washington, D.C. Between 1970-1972, she was financial economist for the American Embassy in Pakistan and she received a meritorious honor award in 1971 for supervising the evacuation of U.S. citizens during the Pakistan-India War.

In 1972 she was selected for the Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy, the most advanced international affairs program offered by the United States government.

In 1973-1975, she served as deputy chief of mission and chargé d'affaires in Sofia, Bulgaria and in 1975, she was named Diplomat in Residence at Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

In July, 1976, Helene Batjer was sworn in as Consul General for Istanbul, Turkey. Her niece, Lt. Christina Batjer, Carson City, held the Bible during the Washington, D.C. ceremony.

Jean Sweetman, born in Virginia City in 1876, attended school in Smith Valley, the University of Nevada and graduated in Senator Pat McCarran's class. She taught school in Tehachapi, California, Round Valley, California (near Bishop) and she devoted 32 years to teaching in the Los Angeles school district,

There was always a form of democratic government in Smith Valley because the early settlers had lived in a democracy and carried on the tradition. In 1864 Timothy Babson Smith was elected the second Justice of the

Peace in Esmeralda County. He was elected November 3, 1874, as an Esmeralda County Commissioner; Daniel Simpson was elected November 7, 1876. Both were re-elected November 5, 1878. Timothy B. Smith had served a four-year period; the last elected post was for two years.

John Pierce was one of the first Justices of the Peace, too. In February, 1909, J.W. Carter and C.M. Carter were appointed Justice of the Peace and constable, respectively, for the Smith Valley township. Herman Sayre was Justice of the Peace for quite a few years. Then Mr. Jess Bishop in Grant View had the job; and now it is Ernest Alpers.

"Bill" Elder, who was really named Ralph, was an early deputy sheriff. Leonard Wines and Jerry Mann filled in when Bill was away. Jay Mann was also a deputy. Then there was George Allen who was elected Lyon County Sheriff by defeating Tom Williams. Sheriff Allen took office January 1, 1967, and he is still undefeated. In Smith Valley, Mahlon Hussman was the deputy. 3.J. "Jim" Vick became the current deputy sheriff April, 1972, and is now involved in his sixth year as deputy sheriff.

There were no serious court cases here. But settlers along the Walker River demanded more and more water. So, something had to be done. What has been considered one of the largest water suits in the West in the amount of property interests involved, was virtually ended in early March, 1918, in Reno on findings prepared by Henry Thurtell, as a special master for the federal court, and by Judge Frank Norcross, acting-more recently in a similar capacity.

The agreement as it was reached by all concerned people called for 8/10 inches of water per acre for all highlands on the Walker River and 6/10 inches of water per acre on all lowlands irrigated from the same stream

and the court was asked immediately to make such a ruling, which settled the disputed water rights along the river.

The suit was started in 1902 in the Federal Court in Carson by Miller and Lux against T.B. Rickey and several hundred defendants owning lands in Smith and Mason valleys. No sooner had this suit been started than T.B. Rickey brought suit against Miller and Lux and the land owners of Smith and Mason valleys in the courts of Mono County, California, claiming prior rights to the water.

In bringing suit in California, Rickey hoped to gain more protection from the California laws. This suit was carried to the U.S. Supreme Court and a decision rendered that the case would have to be settled in the Federal Court in Carson City where the first suit was instituted. The record of testimony in these two cases would make a fair-sized library.

The case had been in the courts almost continuously since 1902 and in 1912 the Case was tried in Reno and it occupied the courts for 37 days. No decision was reached. At this time Henry Thurtell, state engineer, was appointed a special master to make findings covering appropriations along this river within the state. His report was accepted some years later but it was not until March, 1918, after Judge Norcross reviewed the findings, did all the counsel agree to withdraw any differences and accept the findings of the special master as originally presented.

During the progress of the case, many of the litigants of several of the attorneys died. The Walker River Water Users Association was represented in the hearings by several committees, as every few years, death of one or more of the members called for new appointments.

However, J.I. Wilson, one of' the original members of the Committee, had served

throughout the entire suit, and together with F.W. Simpson and F.P. Stickney, was present at the hearing.

The decree of settlement also carried with it a provision that the Antelope Valley Land and Cattle Company, which corporation had recently purchased the holdings of Miller and Lux in Mason Valley and T.B. Rickey's interests in Antelope Valley, should begin within a year after consent of the government, the construction of a storage system, using what is called Alkali Lake as a reservoir. More than 100,000 acres of fine land could be reclaimed by this storage project (Lake Topaz) and water was assured for over 50,000 acres then under cultivation.

With the water suit settled and by securing water storage by concerted effort, the rich agricultural territory tributary to the Walker River was eagerly sought and many homesteaders settled.

The Frank Simpkins had the Simpson Colony place. They began to sell land parcels for farms. In the 1920's, through the 1862 Homestead Act, the people came in and took up the homestead land that was not connected with the Simpson Ranch from the north and toward Wellington. Homesteaders bought ditch stock from the Simpson Ditch.

Below the Colony Simpson place was land held by Bertha Simpson. Frank Simpson sold all of the real Simpson place to Virgil Connell. The family had lived in Antelope Valley.

The first family on the Simpson Colony ditch was M.F. Hovey and that land was known as the Angelo Groso place where Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hara live. George McCutchen was west of the Colony Ditch. Mrs. Hovey cut off the north 40 acres of the homestead for the Charles Everett family. Mary Martin's place was the next one and that is the Andrew C. Sayre, Sr. place. J.B. Parker was on the upper side of the road. W.V. Newell was below the

ditch. Henry Carney homesteaded the Ed Wedertz place and the other Carney brother homesteaded the Jim O'Banion place.

E.P. Beaman's homestead is the Marvin Berrington ranch and the Alex Dixon's land is part of the Ted Bacon ranch and Sam Arentz' is the Robert Satica ranch. On the lower Colony Road, Stan Seaman's land is in the Ted Bacon ranch. August Manke and Pete Manke's lands are also in the Ted Bacon's holdings. The August Bunkowski homestead property is still in the family. The Lind homestead was later the Steely place. East of the Colony Road was Louis Olds; east of Olds and Stan Beaman was H. Larson. East of the Colony Road and north of the Seaman Lakes was Myrtle Seaman, wife of Clarence Seaman. And north of Seaman takes was Dave McKay.

E.P. Seaman, father of Clarence and Stan who homesteaded, was west of the Colony Road and north of Ed Wedertz. Brandon from Bridgeport homesteaded and sold to Ed Leveille on the Colony Canal. Directly north of the Ed Leveille's land was Jessie L. Greenough; north of this place was Alex Dickson.

Northeast of Clarence Seaman were L.S. "Stan" and Edna Seaman. Just east of this place was Pete Manke.

The last place east on the Colony Canal was the F.D. Southard place.

August Manke was north of Pete Manke.

Samuel S. Arentz was on the west side of the Colony Road. Frank A. Arentz was north of Alex Dickson. And to the west of Frank A. Arentz' place was land in the Pinenut foothills. belonging to a Gardnerville sheepman, Arnett Jensen.

Just north of August Manke was August Bunkowski, a cousin. West of August Bunkowski was Hiram A. Jones.

F.W. (Frank) Simpson had land west of the Colony Road, north of Samuel S. Arentz.

Charles Hinds, Sr. had property north of H. Jones' southerly piece; and east of the Colony Road. J.D. Yeager was north of August Bunkowski. And Charles Hanson was north of J.D. Yeager.

M. Southmayd was east of C. Hanson. Chester Smith was north of M. Southmayd, while Paul Regli was west of Chester Smith.

Frank Simpson was west of the Hanson place. L.S. (Leland) Day was east of the Colony Canal. G.B. Day had land west of L.S. Day. Then C.E. (Charlie) Day and G.B. Day were located north of L.S. Day.

W.L. Blackwell was north of the C.E. and G.B. Day land. A third piece of property is shown owned by G.B. Day.

Joe Juansauras bought original Simpson land.

Bertha Simpson has more land. It is west of J.D. Yeager. C.A. Hendel is west of Joe Juansauras. J.D. Yeager has another piece of land and east of this land is Marie Yeager Lofman's land.

W.L. Blackwell is east of J. D. Yeager and Clark Long is east of W. L. Blackwell's land.

M. Flannagan's land is farthest east. Catherine Flannagan is west of M. Flannagan's land. M.K. Twohey is west of Catherine Flannagan and north of Clark Long. Hans Jessen is west of M.K. Twohey.

Frank Arentz' land is north of C.E. Day. V.5. Connell bought land from Will Simpson, east of the Frank Arentz place. K.O. Twohey is north of M.K. Twohey. S. O'Brien is north of Catherine Flannagan, and G.E. Wolfram is east of S. O'Brien. North of G.C. Wolfram is J.S. Lynd. S. O'Brien has 80 acres north of G.C. Wolfram. The Godward Brothers are north of S. O'Brien.

T. Amos is north of K.O. Twohey. Hunnewill land and Livestock is north of V.S. Connell land. C.E. Day is west of the Hunnewill Land and Livestock land. Harry

F. Powell (Hot Springs) and Alex A. and F.D. Burke are north of T. Amos.

F. Simas has 80 acres north of J.S. Lynd.
N.D. Mathes has 80 acres north of S. O'Brien.
W.C. Higgins is north of Alex A. and F.D. Burke.

The Chester Smiths came from Carson Valley to homestead and Dr. C.G. Foster, a medical man, came from Carson. I went to school in Carson and his daughter was in my class. The Foster family lived on the homestead about three years.

During the dry years of 1924 and the Great Depression, many just gave up and were closed, out for taxes. New people have it now and it is all in fine farms.

See the map in the back of this book because the county surveyor, E.W. King, drew the map of the growing north end of Smith Valley. The map title is "Local Improvement District Number One. Smith Valley, Lyon County, Nevada."

It has been God's grace to have lived in Smith Valley to witness all the progress in agriculture. My hope for the future is for continued, good economic times. I hope for more peace throughout the world; and for a safer, kinder world. As Grandma Simpson said, "The mills of time grind slowly but they grind exceedingly fine."

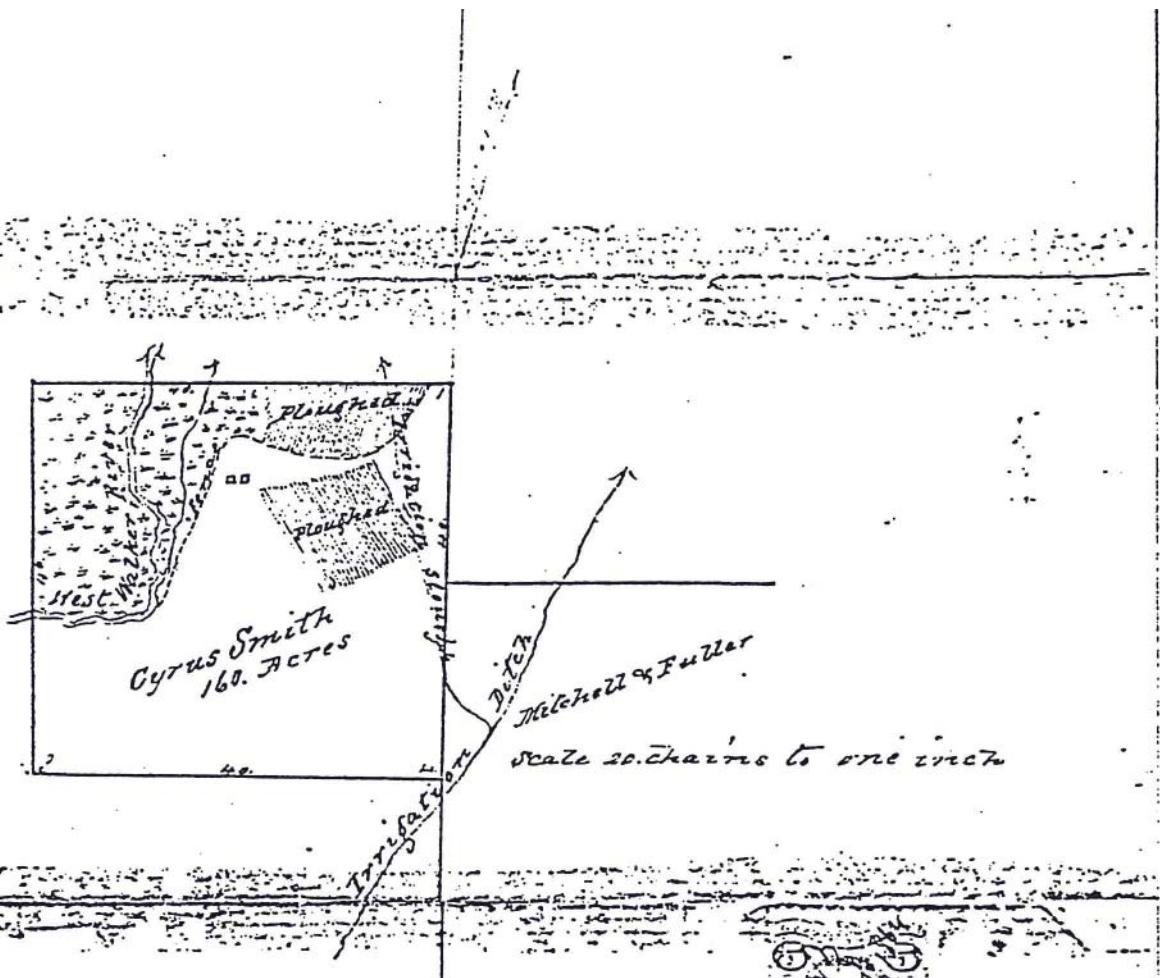
APPENDIX: SMITH VALLEY MAPS

Map 1 - Indicates original Cyrus Smith 160 acres in Esmerelda County, June 10, 1860; followed by description of the Cyrus Smith acres

Map 2- Smith Valley map commenced July 8. 1881 and completed July 12, 1881; in the southwest corner is Cyrus Smith's place and Timothy B. Smiths' place

Map 3 - U.S. Geological Survey map, California-nevada (Wellington Sheet), includes Smith Valley. November, 1893 edition. reprinted October, 1903.

Map 4 - Map of Local Improvement District Number One, by E.W. King



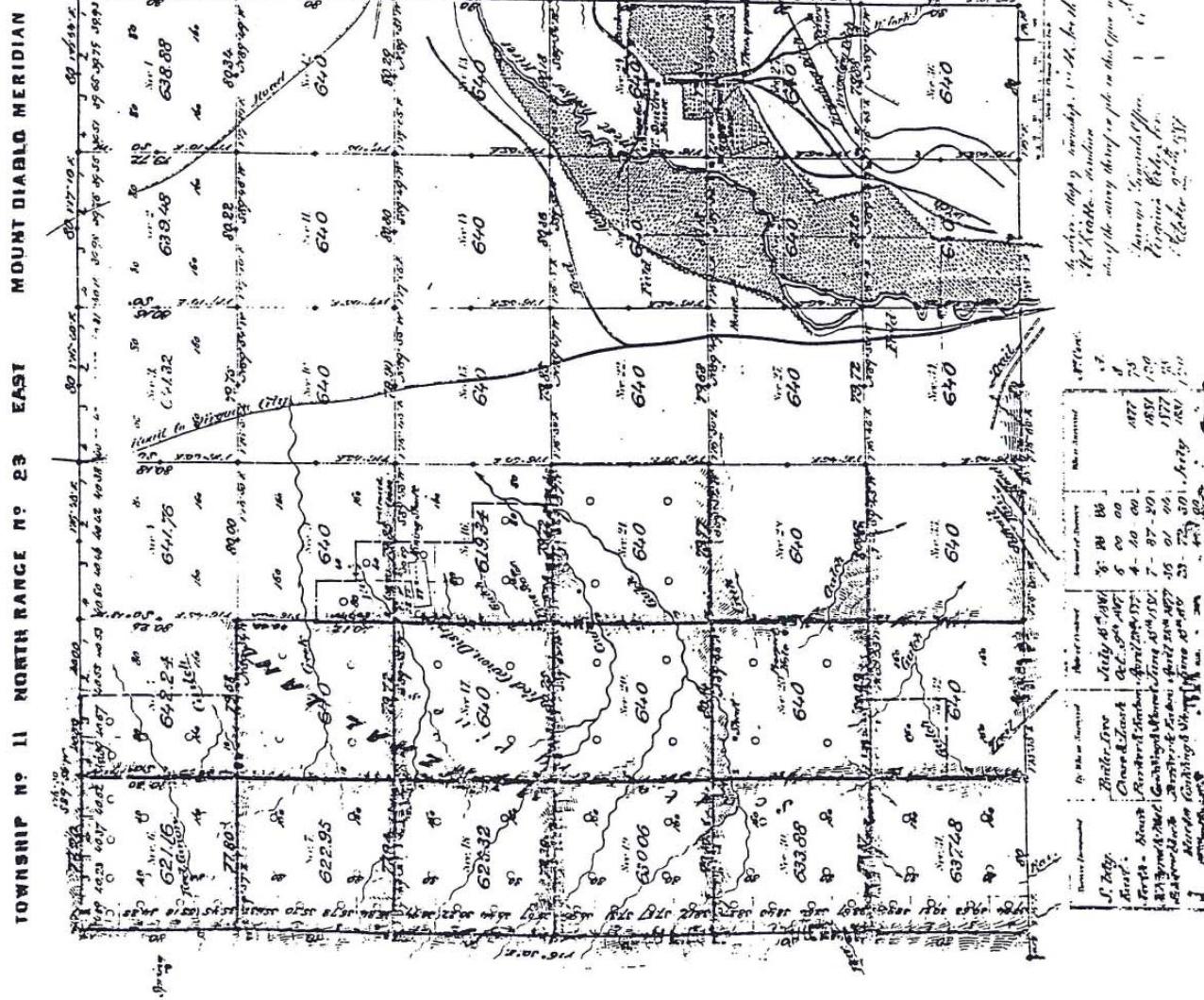
Map 1 - Indicates original Cyrus Smith 160 acres in Esmeralda County, June 10, 1860;
followed by description of the Cyrus Smith acres

Description and Plat of the Survey of a
tract of Land, situated on the West Walker
River, northerly from Wellington, and in
~~the County of Emerald in Territory of~~
Nevada.

Surveyed for Cyrus Smith April
29th A.D. 1864, by Joseph Brade County
Surveyor.

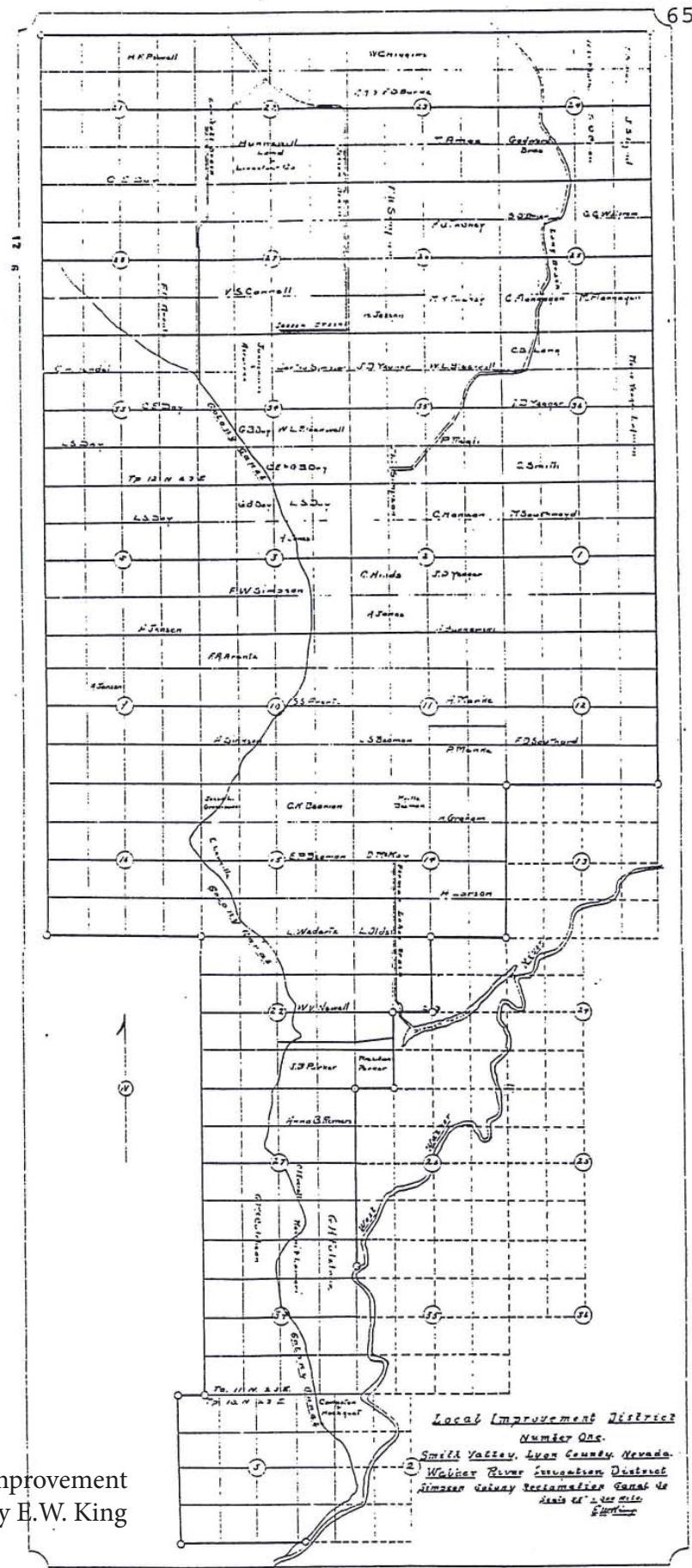
Commencing twenty chains North of the
North west corner (or station No. 5) of Mitchell
and Fullers Survey, and running thence
West 40. chains to a post and mound, thence
South 40. chains to a post and mound, thence
East 40. chains to a post and mound, thence
North 40. chains to the place of beginning con-
taining 160. acres

Said tract of land otherwise de-
scribed, when the Government survey is
extended to the same, as being the
~~first one half of the North West quarter~~
fourth of Section No 25 and the East
one half of the North East one fourth
of Section No. 26 Township No. 11
North of Range No. 23 East.





Map 3 - U.S. Geological Survey map, California-nevada (Wellington Sheet), includes Smith Valley. November, 1893 edition. reprinted October, 1903.



Map 4 - Map of Local Improvement District Number One, by E.W. King

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